

most secretaries do not seem to realize the value it would be to their societies to have the reports of the meetings in the JOURNAL. We wish to extend our thanks to Dr. Bering, Chairman of the Advertising Committee, for his efficient work.

Medical Defense. The most important matter of business now engaging the attention of the Council is the Medical Defense feature of our work. The JOURNAL has referred to the fact that suits for alleged malpractice are increasing steadily in all parts of the country and notably so in California. Most of these suits are without any shadow of foundation in fact and for that very reason they are the more dangerous. It is incumbent upon us to defend these suits most energetically, for every time a verdict is given against a doctor, other persons are tempted by greed to do likewise and attempt to get some "easy money" by suing the doctor for damages.

In starting this work, in July 1909, the plan that the Council adopted and that was unanimously endorsed by the House of Delegates at the meeting of 1910, was the co-operative assessment plan. We could not know what the work would cost but all indications were that it would not cost more than one dollar a year per member and the assessment was therefore set at that amount for the first three years, it being generally understood that by the end of three years we would be in a position to know more definitely something about the expense. This amount much more than covered the cost of the work in 1909, 1910 and 1911; but with the end of 1911 and the beginning of 1912 conditions changed materially. More suits for damages were filed in 1912 than in all the previous period (23 suits were filed), and the cost of conducting the work rose to a sum decidedly above our income on the basis of one dollar per member. The increase in the number of suits for damages for alleged malpractice has been repeatedly remarked upon in our own JOURNAL and in the journals of other state societies. We are advised by our attorneys that there will probably be a large number of suits during the next two or three years, as conditions of this kind come in waves, last a certain time, and then subside.

Assessment. In view of these facts, your Council recommends that the assessment for 1914 be fixed by you at not less than \$5 per member and that the Council be authorized to make an additional assessment of \$1 per member for the year 1913, if it shall become necessary to do so in order to carry on the work properly till the end of the present year.

All the accounts of the Society for the year 1912 were carefully audited by certified public accountants and the report of the auditors, McLaren, Goode & Co., was published in the JOURNAL for March so that all members of the Society might have an opportunity of reading it before coming to this meeting. In the same issue of the JOURNAL was given an analysis of the affairs of the Society for the last six years. The statement shows a steady, substantial growth and sound business development.

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES OF THE MEDICAL SOCIETY OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA,

Forty-Third Annual Session, Oakland, April 15,
16, 17, 1913.

FIRST SESSION.

The first session of the House of Delegates was called to order by the President, O. D. Hamlin, at 8 p. m. Tuesday, April 15th.

Roll call disclosed the presence of 52 delegates and the President declared a quorum present and the House ready for business.

The Report of the President had been presented to the members at the general session in the morning.

Reference Committee on Reports and New Business. On motion of Kress, seconded and carried, a committee of three was appointed to consider all reports of officers and committees and to report to the House with recommendations at the second session. The President appointed as such committee Geo. H. Kress, Chairman; G. G. Reinle and Rene Bine.

The Report of the Secretary was then read and referred to the reference committee.

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The Report of the Editor was included in the Report of the Secretary.

The Report of the Treasurer—the Union Trust Co., of San Francisco—was included in the auditor's report published in the March JOURNAL.

Reports of Standing Committees. Committee on Scientific Work. The Chairman, Dudley Fulton, reported verbally that there had been some little friction in the matter of arranging the programs of the sections but that this would be remedied next year.

Committee on Public Policy and Legislation reported verbally by its Chairman, Geo. Tucker, that the report had been made at the morning general session.

Reports referred. The President announced that there being no objection all reports which had been presented at the morning general session would be referred to the reference committee; no objection, so ordered.

New Business. Rene Bine introduced the following resolution which was referred to the reference committee:

Whereas, the number of malpractice suits is increasing and since physicians connected with hospital associations and those doing other forms of lodge and contract practice are frequently obliged to perform a great deal of work in a hurried manner; be it

Resolved, That the attention of County Units be directed to the fact that physicians doing contract work of this character are liable to demand a great deal of work from our Medical Defense department and thus be an undesirable source of expense to the Society, and that County Units should exercise care in considering their admittance.

Rene Bine introduced the following resolution, which was referred to the reference committee:

In view of the great expense to the Society of having a stenographer present at scientific sessions to take down the discussions on papers and writing them up, and in view of the further fact that many pages of these discussions are never printed, not to mention the alterations and additions indulged in by members in revising them; therefore, be it

Resolved, That the services of a stenographer be dispensed with and that members be requested to write up their discussions and send them to the JOURNAL office in proper form so that they may be published with the original papers.

Henry Horn introduced the following resolution, which was referred to the reference committee:

Whereas, The A. M. A., the National Society of Obstetricians and various societies of ophthalmologists of the United States have recommended and approved the enactment of laws furthering the prevention of ophthalmia neonatorum; therefore, be it

Resolved, That the President of this Society be empowered to appoint a special committee to further this work and to act in co-operation with a similar committee of the A. M. A.

There being no further new business, the minutes were read and approved as read (and as herein above published) and the House of Delegates adjourned to 8 p. m. Wednesday, April 16th.

SECOND SESSION,

Wednesday, April 16th, 1913.

The House of Delegates was called to order at 8:20 p. m. and the roll call disclosed the presence of 56 delegates.

Place of next meeting. Riverside and Santa Barbara were nominated and the President declared a ballot and for that purpose appointed F. B. Carpenter and Sol Hyman as tellers. Riverside received 29 votes and Santa Barbara received 35 votes; the President announced the choice of the House as Santa Barbara.

President. Fitch C. E. Mattison was placed in nomination by H. Bert Ellis. There being no other nominations it was moved, seconded and carried that the Secretary cast the ballot of the House; this was done and the President declared F. C. E. Mattison elected President for the ensuing year.

First Vice-President. Barton J. Powell was nominated and there being no other nominations the Secretary was instructed to cast the ballot, which was done.

Second Vice-President. George Tucker was nominated by F. B. Carpenter and on motion he was unanimously elected by a rising vote.

Secretary. Philip Mills Jones was nominated and there being no other nominations, on motion, the President was instructed to cast the ballot of the House, which was done, and Philip M. Jones declared elected.

All of the following officers were elected on a motion in each instance that the Secretary cast the ballot of the House:

Councilors. Second District—George H. Kress.

Sixth District—C. G. Kenyon.

Eighth District—Jas. H. Parkinson.

At Large—O. D. Hamlin.

Committee on Public Policy and Legislation; two to serve for three years: F. F. Gundrum, Sacramento, and T. C. Edwards, Salinas.

Committee on Scientific Work; to serve four years: A. B. Grosse.

Committee on Arrangements: Rexwald Brown, Benj. Bakewell and Gilbert Hamilton.

Committee on Public Health: C. C. Browning, Jno. C. King, W. F. Snow, G. F. Broderick and N. K. Foster.

Delegates to the A. M. A. for two years: George Hare, Fresno, and V. G. Vecki, San Francisco.

Alternates, for one year: Clarence Moore, Lem Adams and Emmet Rixford.

Mr. Peterson, Chief of Police of Oakland, was invited to say a few words to the House of Delegates, which he did. On motion of C. G. Kenyon, seconded by many and carried, he was requested to address the general session on the following day.

Report of the Reference Committee was then read by the Chairman, Geo. H. Kress, and on motion, the report was accepted and the recommendations considered seriatim.

Mr. President and members of the House of Delegates:

Your Reference Committee on Reports of Officers and New Business begs leave to report as follows:

The Committee congratulates the Society on the substantial progress made and after consideration of the reports of the President, the Council and the Secretary-Editor, begs leave to make the following recommendations:

1. That the suggestion be endorsed and that all county units be urged to co-operate with the laity and lay organizations in efforts to educate their citizens in all matters relating to public health work and legislation and in this particular wishes specifically to mention the splendid efforts of the Public Welfare League of California as a type of what can be accomplished through such efforts. (Carried.)

2. That the suggestion of county units that they make special efforts to make membership in the county and state societies stand as a full expression of our ideals regarding professional qualifications and ethics, be endorsed. (Carried.)

3. That the President's suggestion that annual joint meetings by our county medical units with their respective county legal and dental organizations be endorsed as worthy of careful consideration and practice. (Carried.)

4. That the House of Delegates congratulates the Society on the splendid and most successful manner in which the malpractice defense feature of our Society has been handled, and that we ask for the future the same loyal interest and support in this work from all members as has been evidenced by them in the past. (Carried.)

5. That we recommend that the House of Delegates authorize the Council to declare a special

assessment not to exceed a total of two dollars (\$2.00) per member for the year 1913, to be placed to the credit of the medical defense fund, if it shall become necessary. (Carried.)

6. That the assessment for the year 1914 be fixed at the sum of six dollars (\$6.00) per member. (Carried unanimously.)

7. That the Society be congratulated on the increasing prosperity and influence of the JOURNAL and that the attention of all members be again called to the fact that both scientific articles and editorials are alike welcomed by the editor and the publication committee, and that the county societies be requested to send as full accounts of their meetings as possible, since they can not be other than of great value as an incentive. (Carried.)

8. That the method of the Secretary in keeping and checking the financial accounts and all income and expenditure of the Society and the method of the Council in having all these accounts and records investigated annually by a firm of certified public accountants, be commended. (Carried.)

9. That as regards a special button, the committee feels strongly that inasmuch as the A. M. A. has a button and that all of our members could be A. M. A. members, there is no need for a separate button. (Carried.)

10. That as regards the annual certificate of membership, the reasons just given in regard to a button apply with equal force to a certificate and we make the same recommendation. (Carried.)

11. That the Program Committee be instructed to notify all essayists that not to exceed 10 lines will be given to each essayist for a brief abstract of his paper to appear in the official program and that every essayist be required to send to the Program Committee, in ample time, such an abstract. (Carried.)

12. That the resolution dispensing with the services of a stenographer to take down discussions at the annual meetings, be approved. (Carried.)

13. That the resolution asking county societies to make careful enquiry and consideration before electing to membership applicants doing lodge and contract practice for the reasons stated in the resolution, be endorsed. (Carried.)

14. That the resolution regarding the prevention of ophthalmia neonatorum be referred to the Council for consideration. (Carried.)

Respectfully submitted,

G. G. REINLE,
RENE BINE,
GEO. H. KRESS, Chairman.

H. Bert Ellis introduced the following amendment to the by-laws which, under the rules, had to lie over till the next session of the House of Delegates:

Amend Section 4 of Article VI of the by-laws to read as follows: "The selection of the place of meeting shall be determined by the Council and its announcement followed, by the election of officers, shall be the first order of business of the House of Delegates at the second evening session of each annual meeting."

A motion of thanks to the ladies and the physi-

cians of the Alameda County Medical Society and of the City of Oakland was then introduced, seconded by many delegates, and carried.

The President appointed C. G. Kenyon and H. Bert Ellis, two ex-presidents of the Society, to escort the newly elected President, Fitch C. E. Mattison, to the room. He was then presented to the House of Delegates and made a few appropriate remarks of thanks and appreciation.

The minutes of the second session were then read and approved as read (and as herein above printed) and there being no further business the House of Delegates adjourned without date.

PHILIP MILLS JONES, Secretary.

REPORT OF THE CALIFORNIA STATE TUBERCULOSIS COMMISSION.*

By GEORGE H. KRESS, M. D., Los Angeles, Chairman.

The California State Tuberculosis Commission come into being two years ago, as a result of the passage, by the 39th California State Legislature, of a bill appropriating the sum of five thousand dollars to be expended in carrying on an investigation concerning the prevalence, prevention and treatment of tuberculosis in California. The bill provided, furthermore, that this investigation should be conducted under the supervision of a state tuberculosis commission to be appointed by the California State Board of Health.

The Commission as thus appointed consisted of an executive committee of five members and an advisory board of fifty members. The full membership consisted of physicians, legislators, sociological experts and other laymen, who had had special opportunities or reasons for being interested in the solution of the tuberculosis problem of California. The above members all served without pay or salary. A secretary, Mr. Guy P. Jones, was employed to collect and analyze the morbidity and mortality statistics of the state.

To better attain the aims of the Commission the work of investigation was divided into ten separate divisions, each in charge of a sub-committee consisting of a chairman, who was a member of the executive committee, and of five members of the advisory board.

The fields of investigation were as follows:

1. Committee on Institutional Measures and Administrative Methods—Dr. C. C. Browning, Chairman.

2. Committee on Construction of Institutions—Dr. C. C. Browning, Chairman.

3. Committee on Schools and Health Administration—Miss Catherine Felton, Chairman.

4. Committee on Housing Conditions—Miss Catherine Felton, Chairman.

5. Committee on Sociologic and Economic Aspects—Dr. George H. Kress, Chairman.

6. Committee on Legal Procedure and Laws—Dr. George H. Kress, Chairman.

7. Committee on Scientific Problems—Dr. R. G. Broderick, Chairman.

8. Committee on Education—Dr. R. G. Broderick, Chairman.

* Read before the Forty-third Annual Meeting of the Medical Society, State of California, Oakland, April, 1913.